

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 15-27, 29-34, 36-41, 43-49, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65-67 are currently pending in the application; with claims 2, 5, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 44, and 47 being independent. Claims 7-14, 50-52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 68 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. In light of the amendments presented herein, Applicants submit this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to pass the pending claims to issue.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-6, 15-27, 29-34, 36-41, 43-49, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63 are allowable over the prior art. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Additional Allowable Claims

Applicants note that claims 65-67 appear to be inadvertently omitted in the list of allowed claims. The Examiner indicated that claim 65 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) to Winterburn; however, claim 65 depends from allowed claim 30, and therefore is allowable at least for the reasons provided for allowable claim 30.

Claim 66 depends from allowed claim 37 and as allowable at least for the reasons provided for allowable claim 37; and claim 67 depends from claim 47 and as allowable at least for the reasons provided for allowable claim 47.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate claims 65-67 are allowable in the forthcoming Notice of Allowance.

Conclusion

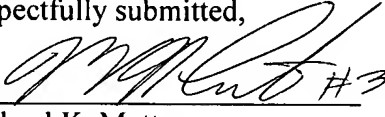
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  #39,491
for Michael K. Mutter
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant